

## The Facts About Early Care and Youth Programs Child Care Licensing and Registration

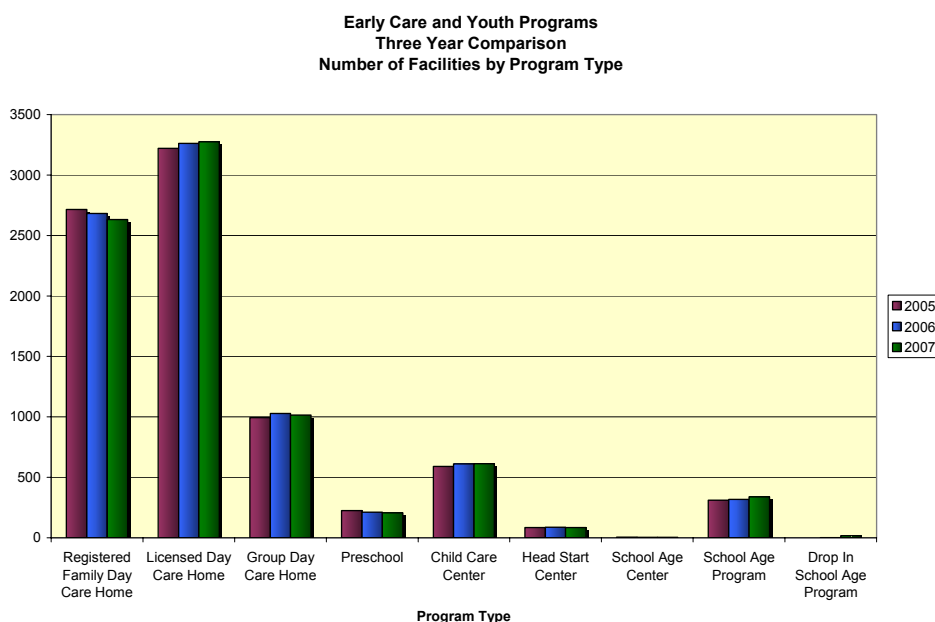
In 1919, Kansas passed the law requiring the licensure of programs providing child care services to children. The law arose from the need to protect children from poor environments in group settings that put children's health and safety at risk. The state, by its actions, acknowledged its responsibility to protect the health, safety and well-being of children in out of home care.

The purpose of regulation is to:

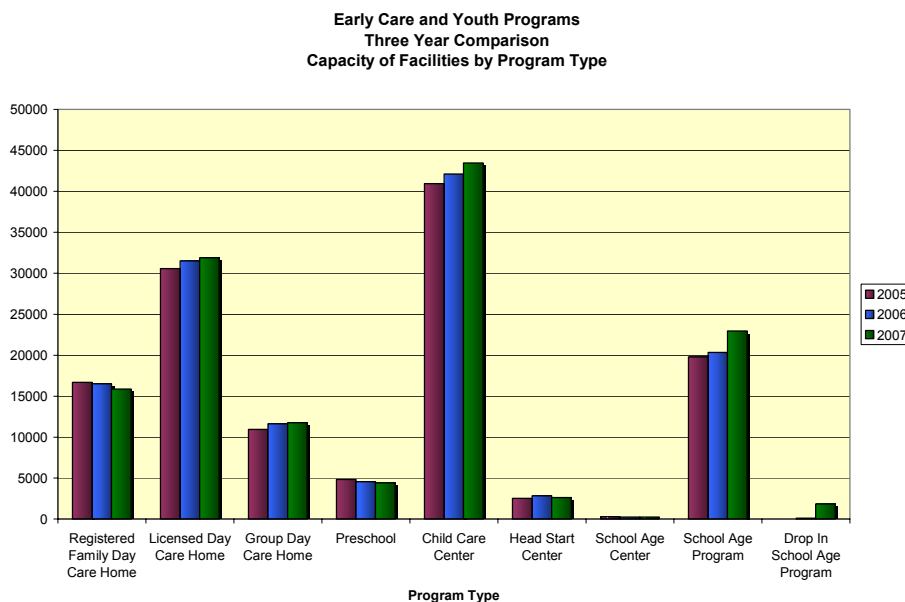
- reduce the risk of predictable harm to children while in out of home settings
- provide a foundation of health and safety protection for children's well-being
- provide basic consumer protection

Regulations provide a foundation of health and safety standards for program operation. Regulation should not be interpreted as meaning "low quality". Programs operating below the level of regulation increase the risk of harm to children which is unacceptable by the state in its efforts to protect children. Regulation serves as a stepping stone to meeting more stringent standards designed to increase the quality of services to children (i.e. accreditation standards for child care facilities).

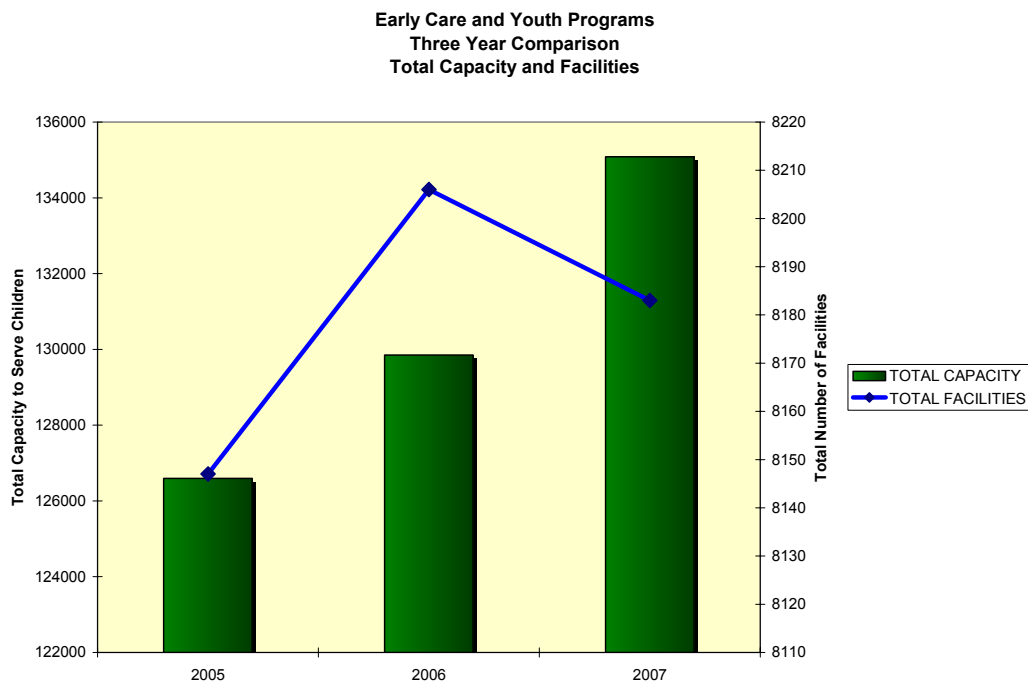
In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2007, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment regulated 8,183 Early Care and Youth Programs. The following chart provides a three year comparison of the total number of facilities regulated:

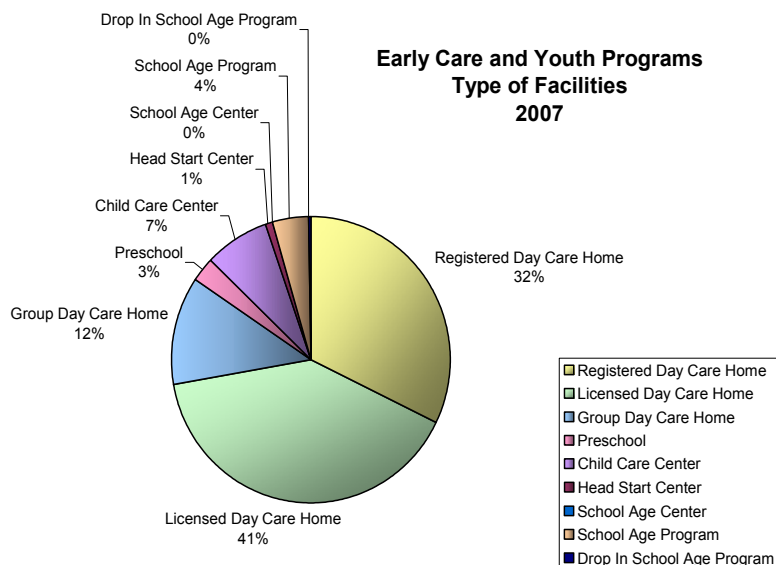


Each facility has a maximum number of children that can be cared for at one time. This is known as the capacity. The total capacity of children that could be served if all early care and youth program facilities were completely enrolled full time was 135,084 in SFY2007. Facilities actually serve more children due to part time enrollment. The following chart provides a three year comparison of the total capacity of regulated facilities:



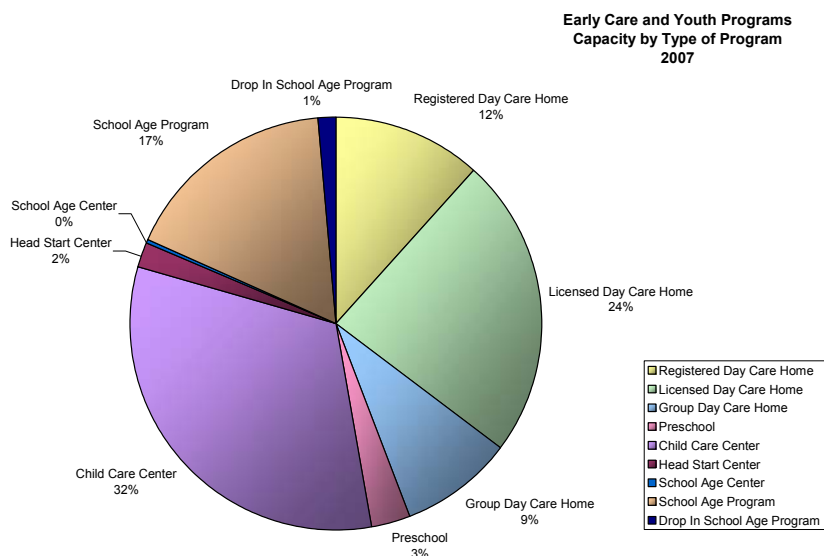
Although the number of regulated facilities decreased slightly from 2006 to 2007, the total number of facilities is more than in 2005. The capacity of the facilities has increased steadily. Larger types of facilities such as Licensed and Group Day Care Homes, Child Care Centers and School Age Programs have increased while smaller facilities such as Registered Day Care Homes as decreased. The following chart shows the increased ability of regulated facilities to serve a larger number of children.





Of the 8,183 regulated facilities in 2007 about 85% are home-based facilities. Child Care Centers including Head Start Centers and School Age Programs account for the remaining 15%.

Although home-based facilities are the majority number of regulated facilities, they have a capacity to serve about 45% of the children in care. Child Care Centers have a capacity to serve about 32% of the children in regulated care and regulated Head Start Centers 2% of the children. School Age Programs have a capacity to serve 17% of the school age children and youth in regulated facilities with 1% of the capacity in regulated Drop In School Age Programs.



Regulated early care and youth programs provide families with many choices.